

The Overseas Press Club of America commemorated the fourteen colleagues who died in the Bombay crash with a simple ceremony at the New York Newspaper Guild on July 20th, the day the group had been scheduled to address the club. A eulogy to each of these men was made by a close friend or news chief. Their words were the same as those in the hearts of friends. Most members knew some of the dead; some knew all. There was a numb look on most faces; a refusal to let the great loss penetrate to the quick.

The following people spoke as indicated:

FOR H. R. KNICKERBOCKER - - - DAVE DRISCOLL, WOR.
 NAT BARROWS, CHICAGO DAILY NEWS - - - TONY MARIANO, CHIEF, NEW YORK BUREAU
 GEORGE MOORAD, PORTLAND OREGONIAN - - - LEIGH WHITE
 LYNN MAHAN, THEODORE SWANSON ASSOCIATES - - - THEODORE SWANSON
 BERTRAM HULEN, NEW YORK TIMES - - - EDWIN L. JAMES, MANAGING EDITOR, N.Y. TIMES
 WILLIAM NEWTON, SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS - - - LEE WOODS, EXECUTIVE EDITOR,
 NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
 CHARLES GRATKE, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR - - - HOMER METZ, U.N. CORRESPONDENT
 FOR THE MONITOR
 VINCENT MAHONEY, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE - - - CARROLL KILPATRICK, WASHINGTON
 CORRESPONDENT FOR THE CHRONICLE
 JOHN WERKLEY, TIME MAGAZINE - - - BOB MANNING, TIME-LIFE
 ELSIE DICK, MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM - - - DOROTHY KEMBLE, DIRECTOR OF
 CONTINUITY, MUTUAL
 THOMAS FALCO, BUSINESS WEEK - - - HOWARD WHIDDEN, FOREIGN EDITOR, BUSINESS WEEK
 S. BURTON HEATH, NEA - - - SUMNER AHLBUM, NEWS EDITOR, NEA
 FRED COLVIG, DENVER POST - - - BILL GRAY, TIME-LIFE
 JAMES BRANYAN, HOUSTON POST - - - E. KILMAN, EDITOR, HOUSTON POST (whose letter
 was read)

Many relatives were present, including Mrs. H. R. Knickerbocker and Mrs. Nat Barrows. The Netherlands Ambassador Van Kleffens came up from Washington along with several other Dutch officials from the capital and New York. Station WFDR recorded the ceremony for distribution to their five stations throughout the country. Frank Kelley received telegrams and cables from colleagues all over the world.

W. L. WHITE writes to the editor that GEORGE MOORAD left a last reportorial will and testament of a shrewd, brave and honest newspaperman, cut off just at the beginning of a distinguished career, in his book "Lost Peace in China," recently published by E. P. Dutton and Co. WHITE says that the country can be glad that MOORAD managed to get it written before that crash -- to write down, among other things, our tragic mistake in insisting that Chiang Kai-shek should bring the Communists into his cabinet.

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PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS

BOB LUBAR, Time-Life Correspondent in India, in a direct report to the OPC Bulletin, wrote the following:

"I know the press coverage of the Bombay crash must have been exhaustive, but I thought the club might like a short direct report.

"For us here it was a harrowing nightmare, compounded with ironies. All day Monday we waited in suspense while they decided (in the air) whether to come to Delhi or skip it. When they finally arrived, they were plumb wore out and in the mood to do nothing beyond buying a couple of souvenirs and go to bed. However, they trooped to the Ambassador's party and perked up considerably under the influence of a few mint juleps. They had a lot to say about the trip, which had apparently been most successful. For once, the Dutch public relations people had done things the right way, had let them go where they wanted and talk to whomever they fancied. They even got to Banka Island and had a cards-on-the table talk with Soekarno and the other Indonesian chiefs.

"Views were divided, but the really good reporters in the bunch seemed to have seen two sides to the question--Dutch administrative experience plus Dutch bullheadedness against Indonesian inexperience and genuine enthusiasm.

"After the party I took Jack Werkley and Nat Barrows to dinner at the house of some friends. About midnight they retired, in anticipation of the six a.m. takeoff.

"After the crash, N.Y. Times' Bob Trumbull, A.P.'s Max Desfor and I flew to Bombay with the Ambassador. Our first grisly task was to identify the bodies which were laid out casually in the so-called morgue--the open rainsoaked courtyard of a hospital. It was a pretty hideous and difficult task and we had to keep coming back to check on new arrivals. Three of the party---Christian Science Monitor's Charles Gratke, Denver Post's Fred Colvig and NEA's Burton Heath--were never identified.

"Funeral services were simple. They were held in the same courtyard with the bodies placed in crude unpainted wooden coffins. Services were pronounced by three local clergymen--Catholic, Congregationalist and Methodist. Nine of the boys were cremated on a conventional Hindu burning pile. The rest were buried in a Church of England cemetery.

"The mystery of the crash seems to hinge on why the pilot headed for what was after all a very low hill. The crux of the situation was what the control tower told the plane. Bob Trumbull and I tried to snoop into that but they're keeping it pretty tight until the official inquiry which begins today.

"It was, unfortunately, the biggest story in India since Gandhi's death."

RADIO-TELEGRAPH

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RALPH JULES FRANTZ, Treasurer, reminds members who have not yet paid their dues that those still delinquent in September will be put on the inactive list of members and taken off the Bulletin mailing list.

MAX JORDAN had an article on "America's Bishop in Germany" (Bishop Aloisius F. Muench of Fargo, N.D., who is Apostolic Visitor in Germany) in a recent issue of "Extension" magazine, Chicago; also one on "The Abbot of China" (Dom Lou, O.S.B., the former Prime Minister of China) in St. Joseph's magazine, Mount Angel, Oregon.

JOSEPH RAVOTTO, PIO of the U.S. Embassy in Rome, and his wife, returned to Italy last month on board the S.S. Vulcania after a seven weeks leave in this country, during which they managed to attend several Club affairs.

JOHN HEWLETT writes from Eire that Ireland is literally chock full of Irishmen... HILDA LLODIO is making a trip around the Caribbean.

GOOD NEWS -- ED DOWELL of Newsweek, whose wife has been critically ill for some months, says that she is well on the way to recovery, an almost miraculous one. Many HT staffers donated blood for Mrs. Dowell when she needed it.

JACK S. HALPER left for Europe last month where he will cover for Newsweek in Switzerland BILL ATIWOOD, on leave from the NYHT, got off to Paris in August, too, but disappeared when he touched French soil -- probably went to pow-wow with the man who could grow hair.

WALTER J. MASON has resigned from the Associated Press to become editor of the Parkersburg, West Virginia, Sentinel, effective September 1st.

JOHN WILHELM, McGraw-Hill correspondent in Mexico, writes that TOM CURRAN, UP vice president, was expected there a few weeks ago en route to the States. The Wilhelms have established a new home in San Angel, Mexico City, one block from another club member, BOB BENJAMIN of Time. NOTE: Mexico City was cool enough for a fire in the fireplace during the New York heat wave.....

SYDNEY HERTZBERG, after more than four years on the West Coast, most of which was spent as Hollywood correspondent for Reader's Digest, is now back in New York permanently to take over the editorship of Magazine Digest, which is developing many plans for expansion.

The following note has been received from IVAN H. PETERMAN: "Besides Honest Hal, the Arab's Pal, and other APs, some 47 D-Day guys got that Medaille de Liberation at the hands of the French Government. Among OPC members were MORLEY CASSIDY and I of Philadelphia; Bill Stoneman and GAULT MACGOWAN who were in Europe ahead of the Junket. Several others like dear old Knickerbocker qualified but were not present. From the Bulletin, it seemed only the AP guys were winners. T'aint so."

In transatlantic travel the feature story is American Flagships!

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AMERICAN AIRLINES



The following applications have been received in the Overseas Press Club. Please send in any comments you may have to the Admissions Committee.

ACTIVE:

HENRY RIES, New York Times, Paris, France. January 1947 to present with the New York Times in Germany, Italy, France, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Switzerland and the free City of Trieste.

HENRY TOSTI RUSSELL, Director of Special Services, United Press of America in London. Paris (1926-27), London (1928), Rome (1930); Brussels and Normandy---Warco, 1944-45; South Africa (free lance, 1947-48, Portugal, free lance, 1948; London (1948). First assignment in Paris for the Philadelphia Ledger; 2nd and subsequent Paris assignment for UPA. All other for UP except free lance one.

IVAN H. PETERMAN's column about H. R. Knickerbocker which appeared after his death in the Inquirer is one of the heartfelt seen to date. It is regrettable that there is not ample space to run it here. For members in New York, it is on the Bulletin Board in the clubrooms.

A. WILFRED MAY, executive editor of the Commercial and Financial Chronicle and Mrs. Vivian S. Reade, homemaking editor of Fawcett Publications, were married on August 7 at the Blue Hill Road estate of Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Strauss. The couple will reside at the Hotel Plaza here in New York after a honeymoon in Europe.

LEO J. MARGOLIN left for India in July for a three to six months trip there.

Two OPC members had articles in the August sixth issue of the Saturday Evening Post. One was ELSIE MCCORMICK about "New Help for That Headache", which makes her third appearance in the Post this year and JOE ALEX MORRIS about "Senator Douglas: Hard Boiled Idealist."

MISS FLORENCE GILLIAM, will succeed Robert H. Blake this month as director of American Aid to France. Miss Gilliam has been active in this association since 1941. In 1947, she returned to France to become deputy director for the organization.

Does anybody know the present whereabouts of ROBERT GRAF, former United Press correspondent???? (Interesting note from Percy Finch says that there is an old English expression for asking the whereabouts of someone... "ways goose". We haven't been able to track it down in the dictionary but if anyone can, please let us know.

Hester E. Hensell, Editor

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